

Daily log
CIB Symposium 2010
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The opening day of the CIB Symposium has finally arrived and so have participants from 33 countries: Italy, France, Korea, Vietnam, Croatia, England, Germany, United States of America, Togo, Lithuania, Israel, Australia, Brazil, Burkina Faso, South Africa, Switzerland, Canada, India, Poland, Tanzania, Namibia, Sri Lanka, Sweden, Belgium, Japan, Spain, Portugal, Argentina, Mexico, West Indies, Philippines, Uganda, and the Czech Republic.

In the opening ritual, Sister Judith Ann Heble, CIB moderator, used the flame of the CIB candle to light a candle from each of the 19 regions as the representatives of that region came forth. The Sisters from each region then proclaimed in their own language: “We are Benedictine women, witnesses of hope.”

“Benedictine women: Witnesses of Hope,” is the theme for the Symposium. On this first day, the feast of the birth of the Blessed Virgin Mary, Sister Judith Ann presented a beautiful reflection entitled, “Miryam: Woman of Hope,” in which she told the Gospel story — Annunciation to Pentecost — from the perspective of Jesus’ mother, who maintained hope even as her Son was crucified. The concluding words of the reflection contained a message from Mary to Benedictine women:

“My dear Benedictine women, be witnesses of HOPE wherever you are. ‘Speak the word of God with boldness (Acts 4:31).’ ‘Go into the whole world and proclaim the Gospel to every creature (Mk. 16:15).’ Go! Tell everyone you meet about my son, Jesus, the Christ, and, when you do, remember me, your Mother, a WOMAN OF HOPE!”

Sister Judith Ann also presented the “Moderator’s Report,” a summary of CIB activity since the 2006 Symposium. Some highlights:

- ❖ The CIB Conference, which consists of 24 delegates from the regions, met in Philippines in 2007 and in Croatia in 2009. In 2008, the Conference met in Rome where they were also guests of the Congress of Abbots.
- ❖ The CIB Administrative Council met twice each year during this period.
- ❖ There are two new members of CIB: Nava Jyothi Benedictine Monastery in India, and Abbaye Notre-Dame de L’Annonciation, Le Barroux, France.

In between the morning and afternoon sessions, the participants became acquainted and/or re-acquainted, in as many languages as they could muster. It was a good day at Sant'Anselmo